

February 5, 1976

of money going to all of the colleges for these tuition waivers, ... and I just don't think that a bill of this sort should be passed by a state legislature -- 1) when the fiscal impact cannot be certainly determined but it is going to be substantial; 2) it is a federal operation that is being dealt with. If the federal government does not have enough concern about this particular element to keep it up to strength by offering these incentives then the unit is not worthy of being maintained in Nebraska. If these people just want to be associated with a military outfit they can join the Nebraska National Guard. Therefore, I'm moving that the bill be returned to Select File to strike the enacting clause.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: I'd have some questions of Senator Cope. This is his bill. Isn't that his bill? Oh.

CLERK: Senator Carsten's bill.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Senator Carsten then. This is your bill? Is there a fiscal.... What is the fiscal impact?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The fiscal impact was \$65,000, as I recall. I don't have it right at my fingertips but I believe that was right. This was the maximum, Senator Cavanaugh, that is envisioned under the bill. There are only 200 allowed. This is the maximum based on college tuition. We know that many of these enrollees will go into the voch. tech. school which has the lower tuition rate.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: OK. So \$65,000 is your maximum then.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Thank you. Mr. Chairman ... Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'd have to join in this motion to return, as earlier, for the same reasons. This is a sweet give-away program that we originally came up with the idea in order to make the enlistment in the National Guard more attractive. It's the responsibility of the state to maintain the Guard. The Guard is utilized by the State of Nebraska in cases of emergency. We don't have that obligation with regard to the Reserve. It is a federal obligation. There's just absolutely no justification that we can give to the taxpayers of this state or to other citizens of the state seeking higher education to provide a tuition remission in this case. This is a little sweet potato that certain members of the Reserve want to add to their benefits. I don't blame them for that, but it's a totally inappropriate thing for the State of Nebraska to be giving away at this point, especially when we face severe fiscal restraints and the cost of higher education continues to escalate. We've got the obligation to expect to treat as many people as fairly as possible. There's no good reason for offering a remission, there certainly isn't in the case of the Reserve.

We should return this bill and kill it.